

October 2003

SOUTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Phil Tilt

Overview

The Southern Command percentage of staffed traffic sergeant and trooper positions dropped to 59.7% in October 2003, as compared to 70.8% in October 2002. The commercial staffing is 61.5%, down slightly from October 2002. During the month of October 2003 there was a 16% increase in overall crashes, compared to October 2002. Southern Command personnel increased total enforcement in October 2003 by 44.2%, as compared to October 2002. We also increased total enforcement by 3.8% over September 2003. I express my gratitude to Southern Command personnel for their hard work and dedication toward the accomplishment of our mission, in spite of a continually increasing work load.

Southern Command personnel handled 1,047 crashes throughout October 2003, compared to 900 total crashes in October 2002. This was an increase of 16.3%. The most notable change occurred in fatal crashes, which were reduced by 44.4%. The total number of persons killed was reduced by 54.5%. In raw numbers, there was a total of 5 fatal crashes in September 2003 and 5 people died.

Southern Command Commercial Operations continues to increase their activity in many areas, when compared to October 2002. Some notable areas of this trend included increases of 190% in hazardous moving violations, 34.4% in total safety inspections, 6.9% in trucks weighed, and 31.6% in total overweight citations. Despite these efforts, the Southern Command documented an increase of 32.8% in the overall number of crashes involving commercial vehicles. We investigated 82 total commercial crashes in the month of October 2003 compared to 61 in October 2002. Of the commercial crashes investigated this month, one resulted in a fatality, 21 resulted in injuries, and the remainder resulted in property damage only. Crashes that involved commercial vehicles represented 7.7% of the total crashes handled by the Southern Command in October 2003. The Southern Command will continue to focus on hazardous moving and out-of-service violations committed by commercial vehicle operators.

We continue to operate with substantial vacancies and a lack of trained personnel. Ten new troopers will start their field training on Monday, November 10, 2003. These are the first newly hired troopers assigned to this command in over two years. While we anxiously await and will appreciate the new personnel, we still have a long way to go to get this command to adequate staffing levels in traffic, commercial, and dispatch.

Even with the high vacancy rate, the Southern Command continues to see very positive improvements. These improvements are reflected in an increased overall activity level. When October 2003 is compared to October 2002, the Southern Command increased occupant restraint enforcement by 144.9%, speed enforcement by 41.5%, and hazardous moving violation enforcement by 41%.

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CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	October 2003		October 2002	% Change		September 2003	% Change
Total Crashes	1047		900	16.3%		1019	2.7%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	714		610	17.0%		741	-3.6%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	328		281	16.7%		274	19.7%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	5		9	-44.4%		4	25.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	51		48	6.3%		36	41.7%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	5		11	-54.5%		4	25.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		6	-66.7%		1	100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	2		3	-33.3%		0	200.0%
Total persons killed -- seatbelts not applicable	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	82		61	32.8%		75	8.0%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	60		41	46.3%		57	5.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	21		20	5.0%		17	23.5%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.5%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.9%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 60.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 7.7%

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

Analysis of the crash data table this month reveals a 16.3% increase in the total number of crashes over the same period last year, with a raw increase of 28 crashes over the previous month. This month, there was an increase of property damage accidents of 17.0% over the previous year, but a 3.6% decrease over the previous month, which is a raw number of 27 crashes. Injury accidents increased 16.7% over the same reporting period last year, with an increase of 19.7% over the previous month. The raw number increase is 54 accidents. Fatal crashes decreased 44.4% over the same reporting period last year, which is a raw number decrease of 4. Fatal crashes increased by 1 over the previous month.

Information obtained from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority shows an increase in population in Clark County over the past year of 6.1%. This 6.1% increase in population equates to an average of 6,849 new residents moving into Clark County per month. With this high number of new citizens moving to Las Vegas it stands to reason there would be an increase in the number of accidents occurring on the highways within the Las Vegas Valley. The accident rate for property damage accidents (-3.6%) is well below the average monthly increase of citizens moving into Clark County. However, the 19.7% increase in injury accidents is significantly higher. The reduction in fatalities from October 2002 can be attributed to the increase in occupant restraint enforcement of 144.9%. This enforcement resulted in increased seatbelt usage to help decrease unrestrained fatalities within Clark County.

The California fires last month caused flight delays at McCarran International Airport and an increase in rental car usage in the Las Vegas area. Traffic in the Las Vegas Valley increased significantly due to displaced California residents coming to Las Vegas to get away from the fires. Local rental car companies reported their entire fleets were in use during this period.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	October 2003		October 2002	% Change		September 2003	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes	51		48	6.3%		36	41.7%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	102		87	17.2%		111	-8.1%
Other Arrests	912		844	8.1%		822	10.9%
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	322		303	6.3%		348	-7.5%
Speed violations	3134		2215	41.5%		2855	9.8%
Hazardous moving violations	2212		1569	41.0%		2310	-4.2%
Occupant restraint violations *	725		296	144.9%		669	8.4%
Total violations [above violations included]	10609		7356	44.2%		10220	3.8%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	29		10	190.0%		56	-48.2%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	134		132	1.5%		157	-14.6%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	539		401	34.4%		606	-11.1%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR Only	12		N/A	#VALUE!		N/A	#VALUE!
Total safety violations -- citation	189		199	-5.0%		187	1.1%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1523		2328	-34.6%		1956	-22.1%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	112		115	-2.6%		124	-9.7%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	46		50	-8.0%		30	53.3%
Total school buses inspected	313		148	111.5%		155	101.9%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	22		12	83.3%		20	10.0%
Total trucks weighed	171		160	6.9%		257	-33.5%
Total overweight citations	50		38	31.6%		52	-3.8%
Total dyed fuel inspections	434		160	171.3%		628	-30.9%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

Overall, enforcement activity was up 44.2% as compared with the same month last year and shows an increase of 3.8% over September. The overall activity shows 3,253 more violations cited over the previous year, and 389 more violations than last month.

When comparing October 2003 to October 2002, DUI arrests made prior to the offender crashing increased 17.2%, which translates to 15 more arrests. There was also a 144.9% increase in Occupant Restraint Violations or 429 more violations cited and an increase of Hazardous moving violations of 41.0%, or 643 more violations cited. When comparing October 2003 to last month, DUI arrests made prior to crash decreased 8.1%, or 9 less. There was also a decrease in Hazardous Moving violations of 4.2%, or 98 fewer citations issued. In this same period, there was an increase of 8.4% in Occupant Restraint violations cited or 56 more citations. The increase in activity reflects the emphasis placed on hazardous moving violation enforcement. Along with this directed enforcement, zero tolerance toward occupant restraint violations and an active education program have increased the public's awareness that seatbelt usage saves lives.

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
STAFFING	October 2003	October 2002	October 2003	October 2002	October 2003	October 2002
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	161	89	114	59.7%	70.8%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	16	19	61.5%	63.3%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	4	5	80.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	October 2003		October 2002	% Change	September 2003	% Change
Annual leave	2192		1656.5	32.3%	1457.95	50.3%
Compensatory leave	653.5		360.05	81.5%	379.4	72.2%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	2065.9		1269.75	62.7%	1436	43.9%
Military leave	176		130	35.4%	352	-50.0%
Holiday off	303.5		66	359.8%	72	321.5%
Training	2027.75		3786.08	-46.4%	1709.75	18.6%
Administrative leave	0		18	-1800.0%	13	-1300.0%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	10380		10034	3.4%	10380	0.0%
Total work hours lost	17798.65		17320.38	2.8%	15800.1	12.6%
OVERTIME	October 2003		October 2002	% Change	September 2003	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	2340.38		2964.83	-21.1%	2102.24	11.3%
Compensatory overtime claimed	187		135.75	37.8%	205.47	-9.0%
Total overtime hours	2527.38		3100.58	-18.5%	2307.71	9.5%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	October 2003		October 2002	% Change	September 2003	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	31140		33908	-8.2%	31140	0.0%
Work hours lost	17798.65		17320.38	2.8%	15800.1	12.6%
Overtime	2527.38		3100.58	-18.5%	2307.71	9.5%
Total hours worked	15868.73		19688.2	-19.4%	17647.61	-10.1%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

STAFFING / WORK HOURS/ COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

STAFFING LEVELS

Numerical staffing numbers shown above reflect only those sergeants and troopers whose primary responsibilities include enforcement activity, crash investigations, commercial enforcement, or inspection functions. Command staff and sworn personnel assigned to other duties are not included as they have minimal impact on enforcement, accident reduction efforts, or commercial vehicle safety.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

The Southern Command field staffing was unchanged from last month. The loss of road staffing due to leave and training exceeded the equivalent of 24 traffic trooper positions, which is just less than one-third of the staffed positions. This was down from 29 positions lost last month lost to leave and training.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

October staffing for Commercial Enforcement remained unchanged from September, at 16 commissioned troopers and sergeants. Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspectors (CVSI's) remained staffed at four.

Current staffing distribution remains unchanged from September. Three commercial troopers are temporarily assigned to traffic operations; two to Urban (Las Vegas) and one to Rural (Laughlin District). One Commercial trooper is permanently assigned to the Glendale District. Of the 26 authorized commercial positions, three Sergeants and nine Troopers (12 total) are currently assigned to Las Vegas Commercial Operations.

OVERTIME

Overtime continues to drop from prior year averages. This month overtime decreased another 18% overall compared to last year at this time. There was an increase of 9% compared to last month.

CONTRACT SERVICES

Contract Service agreements maintained the same pace during October as September, recording 262.5 hours of contract time from 10 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Highway Patrol \$2,793.00 with \$12,209.50 still pending in overtime costs. This brings the NHP total Contract Service overtime for fiscal year 2003/2004 to 1,177 hours from 45 contracts. The total overtime for FY03-04 reimbursed is \$33,839.50.

CRIMINAL INTERDICTION

During the month of October the Southern Commands Criminal Interdiction team conducted 201 traffic stops and 46 motorists' assists. The following is a break down of the drug seizures that resulted from these contacts:

Cocaine - 6.9 Kilograms or 6891.72 grams / estimated street value: \$126,000

Methamphetamine - 5 Kilograms or 2,270 grams / estimated street value: \$132,000

Marijuana – 7 Kilograms or 7, 000 grams / estimated street value: \$9,000

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT

ACCIDENT RATIOS

Ratio of crashes per Traffic allocated position (If the Southern Command were fully staffed)	
Total	11.8
Property	8.0
Injury	3.7
Fatal	0.1
DUI	0.6
Commercial vehicle	0.9
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.0
without seatbelts	0.6
with seatbelts	0.4

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.6
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.1
Other Arrests	10.2
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.6
Speed violations	35.2
Hazardous moving violations	24.9
Occupant restraint violations	8.1
Total violations	119.2

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

The Traffic Enforcement Ratios can be broken down further to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload between Urban and Rural Operations in the Southern Command.

If the vacant positions are discounted, the workload ratios for staffed positions are as follows:

Traffic troopers assigned to the rural areas of the Southern Command had a crash ratio of 3 crashes per staffed field operations position. For each staffed position, 94 citations were issued and 0.6 of a DUI arrest was made.

In the Urban areas, the crash ratio was 14 crashes per staffed traffic position. For each position, 102 citations were issued and 2 DUI arrests were made.

If the loss of manpower created by vacancies, leave, and training, is factored in, the average field operations traffic position in the Southern Command investigated 16 crashes, arrested 2.5 DUI drivers, and issued 163 traffic citations in the month of October 2003.

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd***INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	1.8
Other traffic violations - citations	*	8.4
Total safety inspections [all levels]		27.0
Terminal inspections TIP		0.6
Total safety violations -- citation	*	11.8
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.4
Total safety violations -- repair order		76.2
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		2.8
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		5.6
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.2
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		2.3
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		0.1
Total school buses inspected		15.7
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		1.1
Total trucks weighed	*	10.7
Total overweight citations	*	3.1
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	27.1
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.1

* Commercial sworn only

"Hazardous citations" decreased from 3.7 to 1.8 per position. "Total safety inspections" are down slightly from 30.3 to 27.0 per commercial trooper. "Total vehicles weighed" is also down from 16.1 to 10.7. "Dyed fuel inspections" are down from 39.3 to 27.1, and "dyed fuel citations" increased from 0.0 to 0.1.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

During October there were increases in field enforcement activity over the month of September in the following categories: total safety violations - citations increased by 1.1%, total drivers placed out-of-service increased by 53.3%, total school busses inspected increased by 101.9%, with total school busses placed out-of-service increasing by 10%.

Field enforcement activity decreased in the following areas: total safety inspections decreased by 11.1% and total safety violation- repair orders decreased by 22.1%. The most significant decrease in activity was in the area of hazardous moving violations which decreased by 48.2% as compared to September. The overall safety inspections for the Commercial Enforcement Section of the Southern Command decreased slightly from 606 to 539 as compared to September. Of those inspections, 119 were Level 1 inspections as compared to 121 for September. The decreases in activity can be attributed to the 304 total hours of training given or received. This was a reduction of 20% in the available Commercial Enforcement manpower assigned to the Southern Command.

Total commercial vehicle crashes increased from 75 for the month of September, to 82 for the month of October. Of those 82 crashes, 60 resulted in property damage only, 21 in injury, and 1 in a fatality. The fatality was the result of driver error of the passenger vehicle involved. Commercial vehicles were at fault in 47 of the crashes. Commercial driver error caused 43, a mechanical defect resulted in 1, and spilled/unsecured loads resulted in 3. The remaining 34 crashes were not attributable to the commercial vehicle. Commercial vehicle crash occurrences continue to be relatively evenly distributed among day shift and swing shift with a minimal number occurring on grave shift.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

EVIDENCE VAULT

The evidence vault Administrative Assistant II position has been filled. The evidence vault booked in 207 items during October from 123 new cases. This is a 5% increase in item submittal. An review of the items submitted found that 94.2% were submitted by NHP, 2.8% submitted by NDI, 1.9% from Parole and Probation, and .09% from the State Fire Marshall's office.

In preparation for the move to our new Southern Command Headquarters, evidence from adjudicated cases will be disposed of. Headquarters technology section is assisting Administrative Services in finalizing access to the Las Vegas Municipal Court case disposition system. This will reduce the amount of evidence transferred to the new facility.

COMMUNICATION CENTER

An Administrative Assistant III was reassigned to the Communications Center as a Public Safety Dispatcher III and a new employee started on October 6th. Our trainee completed the training program and was released which increased our working personnel to 13. There was one resignation from the civilian staff in dispatch.

Currently, 18 PSD I applicants are in the background phase. Twelve applicants are in their first month and the remaining 6 are in their third month. One Hiring Board was completed on another applicant.

During September, Push to Talk tallies were 146,475 and phone calls totaled 33,253. This volume was handled in spite of 18 vacant positions.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS Cont'd

RECORDS SECTION

The Records Sections had over 867 visitors requesting services from the Nevada Highway Patrol. The types of services provided included filling requests for records (including reprints of photos), signing off non-moving violations, providing directional information, and answering general reporting questions. The Records Section had a significant increase of activity in October. This section processed 1,037 crash reports; 56 of those reports were reports taken at the counter. Over 6,000 crash reports were mailed out to insurance companies, attorney offices, and local prosecutors.

In addition to the release of public records, 151 vehicles were released after being impounded for improper registration.

OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS

Fourteen of the 56 reports taken at the counter were hit and run crashes. In October, we cleared five hit and run investigations. This is a significant reduction in the number of cases cleared and is due to the reassignment of the desk officer to the training academy.

COURT SERVICES SECTION

The court services section received 481 bench warrants from area courts during October. Five hundred twenty warrants were entered into the Criminal Justice Information System with another 344 warrants were cleared from the same system. The section also validated over 5,025 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness.

This section arranged 13 in-state transports. All the transports were completed through the coordination of the Court Services Section.

PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES

Tawanna Walker
Kathy Down

RESIGNATIONS

Robert Hooper

COMMENDATIONS

- A citizen, who ran out of gas, wrote to thank Trooper Wiltse for his assistance.
- Two citizens, who also ran out of gas, wrote to thank Trooper Maldonado for assisting them and for his kindness in a difficult situation.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Twiddy for his assistance and professionalism.
- Lo Jack wrote to thank Troopers Diaz and J. Hoskins for their assistance with locating a stolen vehicle.
- Trooper Kemmer received a letter of appreciation for volunteering to assist in the Laughlin/Searchlight District due to personnel shortages.
- Sergeant Johnson received a command commendation for detailed work, a second for assisting a citizen, and a third from Spotty Dog Productions for her assistance with a contract service.
- Trooper Zbinden received a command commendation for outstanding contribution to the mission of the Nevada Highway Patrol while assisting a citizen.
- Sonia Vazquez and Erin Canup received a letter of commendation for their excellent work on the radio.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Safety Day, Luxor Hotel and Casino

Fifty management employees were educated on traffic law with special emphasis on driving while intoxicated and seat belt safety. Exhibits were utilized to enhance the presentation. The main feature of the presentation was the fatal vision goggles which simulate the effects while driving intoxicated.

October 1, 2003

0.08 BAC Impact

Volunteers assisted with a drinking and impairment demonstration hosted at the Instant Replay Bar and Restaurant while Channel 3 News reported the event on live television. October 1, 2003

U.S. Army Recruitment Safety Day

A traffic safety address was presented to approximately 150 Army personnel, featuring the fatal vision goggles. Twelve 20 minute classes were held to accommodate all of the Army personnel.

October 3, 2003

PUBLIC INFORMATION...Cont'd**Bullhead City Fire Safety Fair**

This event involved over 20 agencies from the Tri-state area. Our presentation was interactive on a one on one basis that involved over 750 children and parents. Sgt. Mack was involved in the project. Handouts for the attendees consisted of coloring books, pens, pencils and posters. October 11, 2003

UNLV Women's Job Fair

This was our second time to participate in this recruitment drive targeting women. Over 2000 attendees participated in the event. Our target audience was for troopers and public safety dispatchers. Sergeant Gina Johnson and Trooper Elmer Johnson assisted in this drive. October 18, 2003

Driver's Edge, Class 4 and Class 5

In two sessions of four hours each, over 200 young drives and their parents were educated on seatbelt safety and the dangers of driving while impaired. This presentation was interactive with the use of the Rollover Simulator and Fatal Vision Goggles. October 18th & 19th 2003

Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman's Briefing

Fifty airmen were educated on traffic laws with special emphasis on driving while intoxicated and seat belt safety. October 21, 2003

Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino Safety Day

Fifty management employees were educated on traffic laws with special emphasis on driving while intoxicated and seat belt safety. Exhibits were utilized to enhance the presentation which featured the fatal vision goggles. October 27, 2003

USMC Recruitment Safety Briefing

60 USMC recruiters attended a presentation on the dangers associated with driving while impaired and the laws related to driving while impaired/intoxicated. October 27, 2003

Opportunity Village Safe Street

With the support of local radio station, Sunny 106.5, NHP was able to have a booth for three days at this event to hand out candy to over 2000 children. Trp's Snow and Martin assisted in this event. The booth, which normally costs \$500 per day, was paid for by Sunny 106.5. October 29th, 30th, & 31st 2003

Nevada Highway
Patrol

Southern Command

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PROJECTS

Air Show

November 15th & 16th

72 Hour Check Site

November 13th -15th

Staff study to review the minimum qualifications for Public Safety Dispatch IV.



New Harley's Roll Out in Las Vegas

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals.

Author Unknown